

AWBA NEWSLETTER

Issue Number 9

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AWBA Agreements Nearing Completion

The two agreements between the AWBA and the CAP that provide for delivery of excess water and storage at CAP operated recharge facilities are nearly complete and it is anticipated that they will be approved by the AWBA and CAWCD at their respective June meetings. The Intergovernmental Agreement between the AWBA, the CAWCD and the ADWR is also nearing completion and it is anticipated that it, too, will be approved in June.

AWBA staff recently met with the operators of the various groundwater savings facilities to discuss the new GSF agreements. Operators are being given the opportunity to review and provide comment on the agreements. It is expected that the AWBA will be asked to approve the agreements in June pending their approval by the individual irrigation district boards. Interested parties may obtain drafts of the agreements by contacting the AWBA.

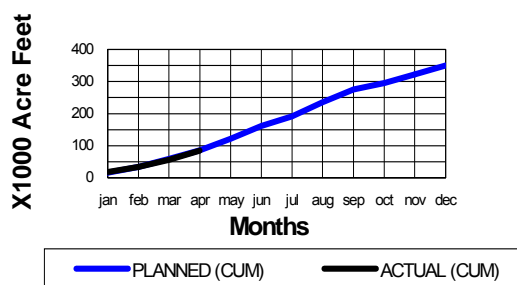
Interstate Water Banking Agreements

The Bureau of Reclamation released the draft Storage and Interstate Release Agreement (SIRA) and its companion Environmental Assessment (EA) in February. The deadline for comment on the documents was March 25, 2002. As of April, the Bureau anticipated execution of a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) on the EA based on their analysis and the comments received. Issuance of a FONSI would complete the Bureau's requirements under federal environmental law.

Information regarding the SIRA was provided by letter to the commissioner of the International Boundary and Water Commission as required by the federal rule for offstream storage. The Bureau's letter stated that it was their belief that interstate water banking would have no effect on the delivery of treaty water to Mexico. Completion of these actions by the Bureau brings the SIRA one step closer to execution. It is anticipated that all three of the agreements needed to initiate interstate water banking will be executed in 2002.

AWBA Water Deliveries

2002 DELIVERIES (by Month)
Planned vs. Actual



March and April Water Deliveries

	MAR	APR
Phoenix AMA	5,751 AF	9,291 AF
Pinal AMA	10,117 AF	12,784 AF
Tucson AMA	6,810 AF	6,184 AF
	22,678 AF	28,259 AF

Total Deliveries (thru April)

84,308 AF

Recharge Update

► CAP has initiated a regional feasibility study for the East Salt River Valley and anticipates completion of phase 1 by June. There will be about \$5 million of Demo Project funds available after the Agua Fria and Hieroglyphic Mtns. projects are completed. CAP now has the authority to construct facilities in Pinal County using Maricopa County Demo fund money given that the facility will benefit Maricopa County.

► The CAWCD Board directed staff to proceed with design and permitting tasks associated with the Tonopah Desert Site. The site was selected following completion of an extensive feasibility study in western Arizona. The planned facility will have 100,000 acre feet of storage capacity.

The AWBA has released the draft 2001 Annual Report and Ten Year Plan (2003-2012). Copies can be obtained on the web page or from AWBA. The deadline for comments is June 7, 2002.

Exchange Legislation Approved

House Bill 2594 was signed by the governor on May 1, 2002. HB 2594 waives the 12 month requirement for completion of a water exchange when the exchange is between an agricultural improvement district and a multi-county water conservation district. The AWBA can receive water under an exchange between the CAP and SRP. In instances of canal capacity constraints, receipt of exchange water from SRP may be the only way that storage at GRUSP can be done due to CAP's operational rules.

Upcoming Authority Meetings

Wednesday, June 19, 2002 from 10:00-12:00 at ADWR Conference Room B.

Wednesday, September 18, 2002 from 10:00-12:00 at ADWR Conference Room B.

Ten Year Plan Meeting

Wednesday, May 29, 2002 from 1:00-3:00 at ADWR Conference Room B.

Interstate Water Banking in 2002?

As directed by the AWBA in March, staff began examining the possibility of initiation of interstate storage in 2002. Staff met with the Pinal County irrigation districts in an effort to determine the capacity available. Absent interstate banking and if dry conditions continue, the Pinal County irrigation districts could be limited in the amount of AWBA water delivered due to the loss of the AWBA's general fund appropriation.

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